(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The International Safety Management (I.S.M.) Code will come into effect for different categories of vessels of Shipping Corporation of India as per the following schedule :

(i) In respect of all passenger ships including high speed light craft (regardless of size), oil tankers, chemical tankers, gas carriers, bulk carriers and cargo high speed crafts of 500 gross tonnage and over, with effect from Ist July, 1998.

(ii) For other cargo ships and mobile off-shore drilling units of 500 gross tonnage and over, with effect from Ist July, 2002.

Shipping Corporation of India has already initiated action to ensure compliance with the I.S.M. Code, well before it comes into force.

English]

Assistance to Schools for Science Laboratories

3365. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are providing the financial assistance to recognised schools for upgradation of science laboratories;

(b) if so, the total assistance provided during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether any requests for financial assistance from schools are pending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Improvement of Science Education in Schools, financial assistance is provided by the Government to the States for upgradation of deficient laboratories in Government and Government aided secondary/senior secondary school. The State-wise details of assistance provided for upgradation of science laboratories in the schools during 1994-95 and 1995-96, is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d). Neither any requests, received directly from the schools are considered under the Scheme nor any assistance is provided direct to the schools. Therefore, the question of any request from the schools for financial assistance pending with the Government does not arise.

STATEMENT

Name of the State	Amount of assistance provided 1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	-	Rs. 34,20,000/-
Assam	Rs. 6,00,000/-	-
Goa	Rs. 7,80,000/-	-
Karnataka	-	Rs. 2,07,90,000/-
Kerala	-	Rs. 2,62,80,000/-
Madhya Pradesh	-	Rs. 92,10,000/-
Maharashtra	Rs. 4,47,60,000/-	-
Nagaland	Rs. 3,25,080/-	Rs. 2,11,302/-
Punjab	Rs. 77,10,000/-	Rs. 42,00,000/-
Tripura	-	Rs. 9,90,000/-
Total	Rs. 5,41,75,080/-	Rs. 6,51,01,302/-

[Translation]

Paper of Combined Defence Service

3366. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Question paper of Combined Defence Service is provided to candidates only in English language;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce the question paper in Hindi also for the Combined Service like other Civil Services examinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal to introduce multi-lingual system of examination for all the Services for which selection is made by the Union Public Service Commission, based on the recommendations on Dr. Satish Chandra Committee, is presently under examination in the Department of Personnel and Training.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

3367. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation led by Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India recently;